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nature

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call of nature	
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human nature	

Main Entry: **nature**

Pronunciation: 'nA-ch&r

Function: *noun*

Etymology: Middle English, from Middle French, from Latin *natura*, from *natus*, past participle of *nasci* to be born -- more at **NATION**

1 a : the inherent character or basic constitution of a person or thing : **ESSENCE**
b : **DISPOSITION, TEMPERAMENT**

2 a : a creative and controlling force in the universe **b** : an inner force or the sum of such forces in an individual

3 : a kind or class usually distinguished by fundamental or essential characteristics <documents of a confidential *nature*> <acts of a ceremonial *nature*>

4 : the physical constitution or drives of an organism; *especially* : an excretory organ or function -- used in phrases like *the call of nature*

5 : a spontaneous attitude (as of generosity)

6 : the external world in its entirety

7 a : humankind's original or natural condition **b** : a simplified mode of life resembling this condition

8 : the genetically controlled qualities of an organism

9 : natural scenery

synonym see **TYPE**

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